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June 9, 2004

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Art Unit 2856

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 10/772,470; Filed: February 6, 2004 For: Vacuum Membrane Extraction System

Inventors: LaCOURSE et al.

Our Ref: 2254.0010001/RWE/JKM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Executed Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b), with copies of the executed Assignment;
- 2. Executed Power of Attorney and Correspondence Address Indication Form;
- 3. Information Disclosure Statement;
- 4. List of cited references on Form PTO-1449 (1 page, citing 4 documents: AA1-AC1 and AR1);
- 5. A copy of the non-U.S. Patent reference cited on Form PTO-1449 (AR1); and
- 6. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Robert W. Esmond Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 32,893

RWE/JKM:bac Enclosures

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